

In The Claims

Claims 1–11 (canceled)

12. (previously presented) A method for the spray extrusion of a low viscosity coating material onto an object via a nozzle connected to a pressurized source of the coating material, the method comprising:

discharging the coating material through a discharge aperture of the nozzle under pressure, the discharge aperture comprising a pattern of discrete discharge holes debouching into a front surface of the nozzle and configured such that the coating material is discharged from the holes in separate strings with a relatively high discharge velocity,

impinging the separate strings of the coating material on the object, then

fusing the impinged separate strings of the coating material together on the object to form a continuous strip of the coating material.

13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the holes are aligned in a row.

14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the holes have a combined discharge area equal to about 10 - 20 % of the area of a corresponding uninterrupted discharge aperture.

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the holes are circular.

16. (previously presented) A nozzle for the spray extrusion of a low viscosity coating material, the nozzle comprising:

a connector,

a body, and

a tip having a plurality of discrete coating material discharge holes formed therein, the holes debouching into a front surface of the nozzle and being dimensioned and positioned relative to one another such that the coating material is discharged therefrom and impinges upon the object in discrete strings and thereafter fuses together on the object to form a continuous strip of the coating material.

17. (previously presented) The nozzle according to claim 16, wherein the holes are aligned in a row.

18. (previously presented) The nozzle according to claim 16, wherein the holes have a combined discharge area equal to about 10 - 20 % of the area of a corresponding uninterrupted discharge aperture.

19. (previously presented) The nozzle according to claim 16, wherein the holes are circular.

20. (previously presented) The nozzle according to claim 16, wherein the nozzle is composed of stainless steel.

21. (previously presented) A nozzle for the spray extrusion of a low viscosity coating material onto an object, the nozzle comprising:

a connector,

a body, and

a tip having a plurality of discrete coating material discharge holes formed therein, the holes debouching into a front surface of the nozzle and being dimensioned and positioned relative to one another such that the coating material is discharged therefrom and impinges upon the object in discrete strings and thereafter fuses together on the object to form a continuous strip of the coating material, wherein the holes have a combined discharge area equal to about 10 - 20 % of the area of a corresponding uninterrupted discharge aperture.

22. (previously presented) The nozzle according to claim 18, wherein the holes are aligned in a row.

23. (previously presented) The nozzle according to claim 18, wherein the holes are circular.

24. (previously presented) The nozzle according to claim 18, wherein the nozzle is composed of stainless steel.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the holes are aligned in a row.

26. (previously presented) A method for the spray extrusion of a low viscosity coating material onto an object via a nozzle connected to a pressurized source of the coating material, the method comprising:

discharging the coating material through a discharge aperture of the nozzle under pressure, the discharge aperture comprising a pattern of discrete discharge holes disposed in a front surface of the nozzle and configured such that the coating material is discharged from the holes in separate jets with the discharge holes having a combined discharge area equal to about 10 - 20 % of the area of a corresponding uninterrupted discharge aperture,

impinging the separate jets of the coating material against the object, and thereafter fusing the impinged separate jets of the coating material together on the object to form a continuous strip of the coating material.

27. (previously presented) A nozzle for the spray extrusion of a low viscosity coating material, the nozzle comprising:

a connector,

a body, and

a tip having a plurality of discrete coating material discharge holes formed therein, the holes debouching into a front surface of the nozzle and being dimensioned and positioned relative to one another such that the coating material is discharged therefrom and impinges upon the object in discrete jets and thereafter fuses together on the object to form a continuous strip of the coating material, wherein the discharge holes have a combined discharge area equal to about 10 - 20 % of the area of a corresponding uninterrupted discharge aperture.

28. (new) A method for the spray extrusion of a low viscosity coating material onto an object, the method comprising:

providing a nozzle comprising a nozzle body, an attachment fixture, a connector for connection to a pressurized source of the coating material, and a tip at the free end of the nozzle that includes a plurality of pairs of spaced apart discharge holes formed therein arranged in a row;

discharging the coating material from each one of the plurality of pairs of discharge holes such that there is a separate stream of the coating material coming from each one of the plurality of the discharge holes;

impinging the streams of the coating material against the object with the streams of the coating material not joined in the air; and thereafter

fusing the streams of the coating material into a substantially flat and continuous strip of the coating material on the object.

29. (new) The method according to claim 28, wherein the attachment fixture is integrally formed of the nozzle body.

30. (new) A method for the spray extrusion of a low viscosity coating material onto an object, the method comprising:

providing a nozzle capable of being located below the object, the nozzle comprising a nozzle body having a tip at its free end that includes a plurality of pairs of spaced apart discharge holes formed therein arranged in a row;

discharging the coating material from each one of the plurality of pairs of discharge holes toward the object such that there is a separate stream of the coating material coming from each one of the plurality of the discharge holes;

impinging the streams of the coating material against the object with the streams of the coating material not joined in the air; and

fusing the streams of the coating material into a substantially flat and continuous strip of the coating material on the object.

31. (new) The nozzle according to claim 30, wherein the discharge holes have a combined discharge area equal to about 10 - 20 % of the area of a corresponding uninterrupted discharge slot.

32. (new) The nozzle according to claim 30, wherein the nozzle is located below the object such that the discharge holes discharge coating material from below the object toward the object during the discharging step.